

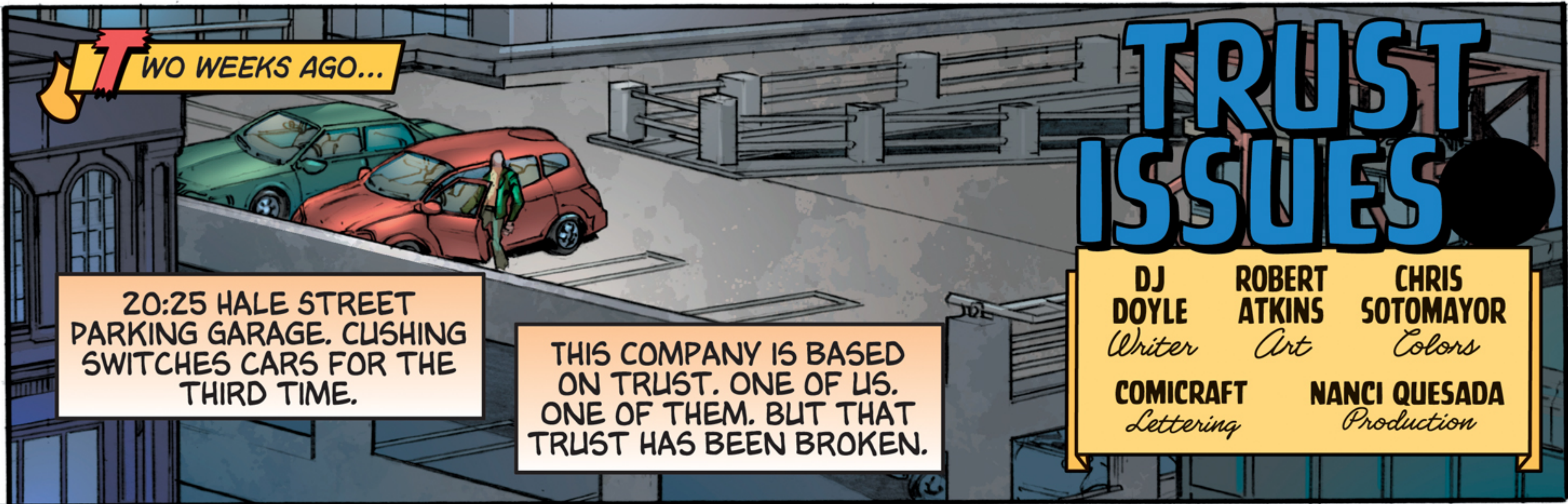
HEROES

CHAPTER 84

TRUST ISSUES

Part 1 of 2

After Donna Dunlap was recruited, by the Company, warnings from the mysterious Evs Dropper convinced her that the only way to survive was to bring the Company down from within. But when she is inexplicably grounded from missions, Donna breaks into the file room to check her personal dossier, only to find Agent Thompson looking at an Isaac Mendez death portrait...of Donna. It seems she isn't the only agent in this company with trust issues...



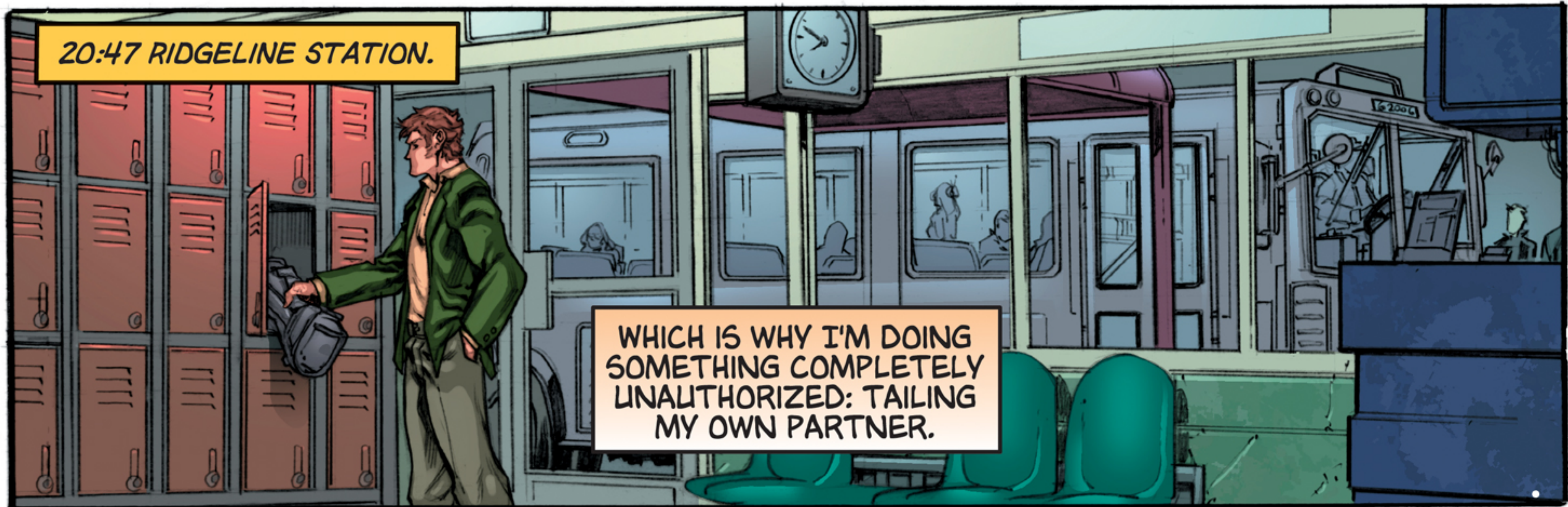
TWO WEEKS AGO...

TRUST ISSUES

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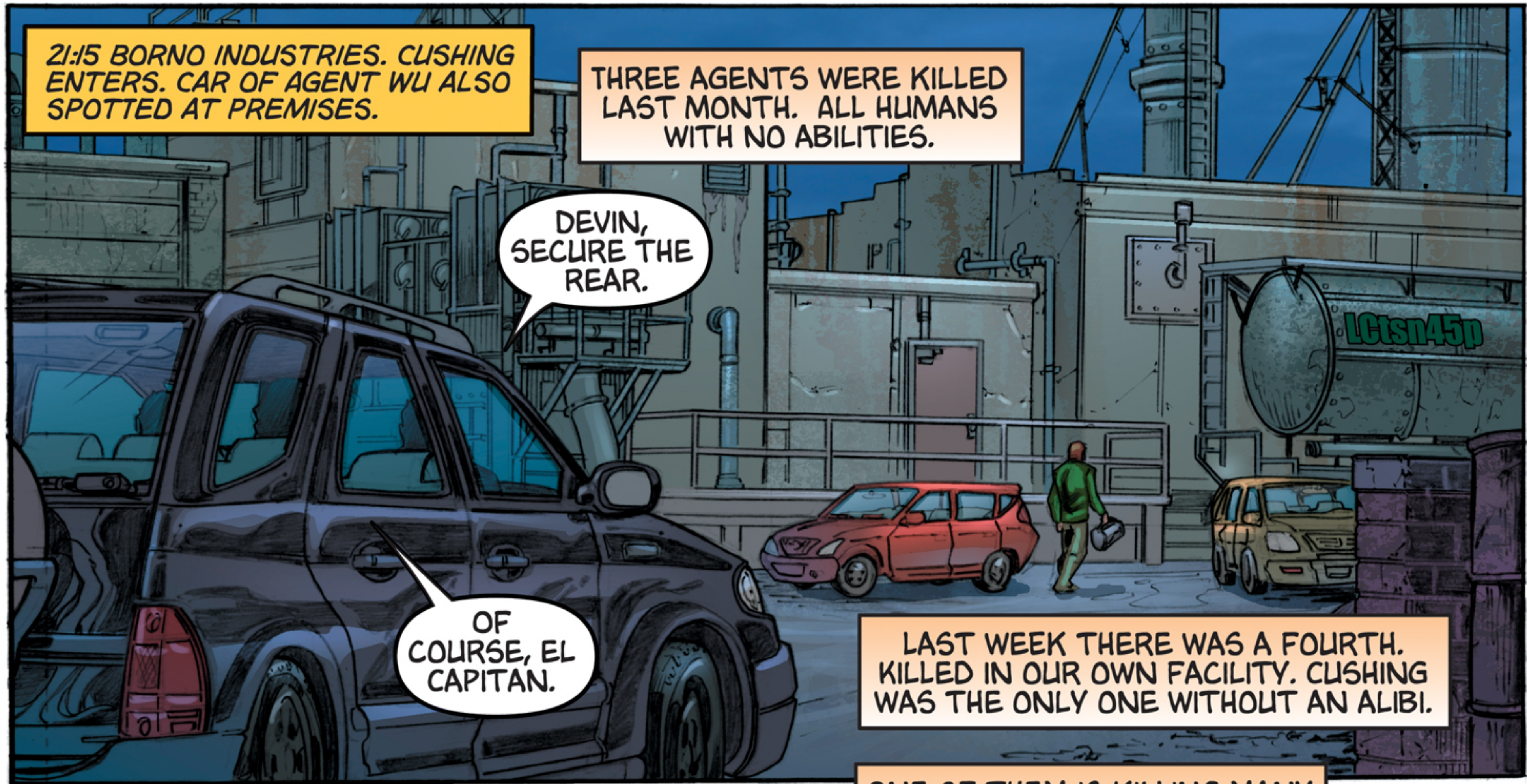
20:25 HALE STREET PARKING GARAGE. CUSHING SWITCHES CARS FOR THE THIRD TIME.

THIS COMPANY IS BASED ON TRUST. ONE OF US. ONE OF THEM. BUT THAT TRUST HAS BEEN BROKEN.



20:47 RIDGELINE STATION.

WHICH IS WHY I'M DOING SOMETHING COMPLETELY UNAUTHORIZED: TAILING MY OWN PARTNER.



21:15 BORNO INDUSTRIES. CUSHING ENTERS. CAR OF AGENT WU ALSO SPOTTED AT PREMISES.

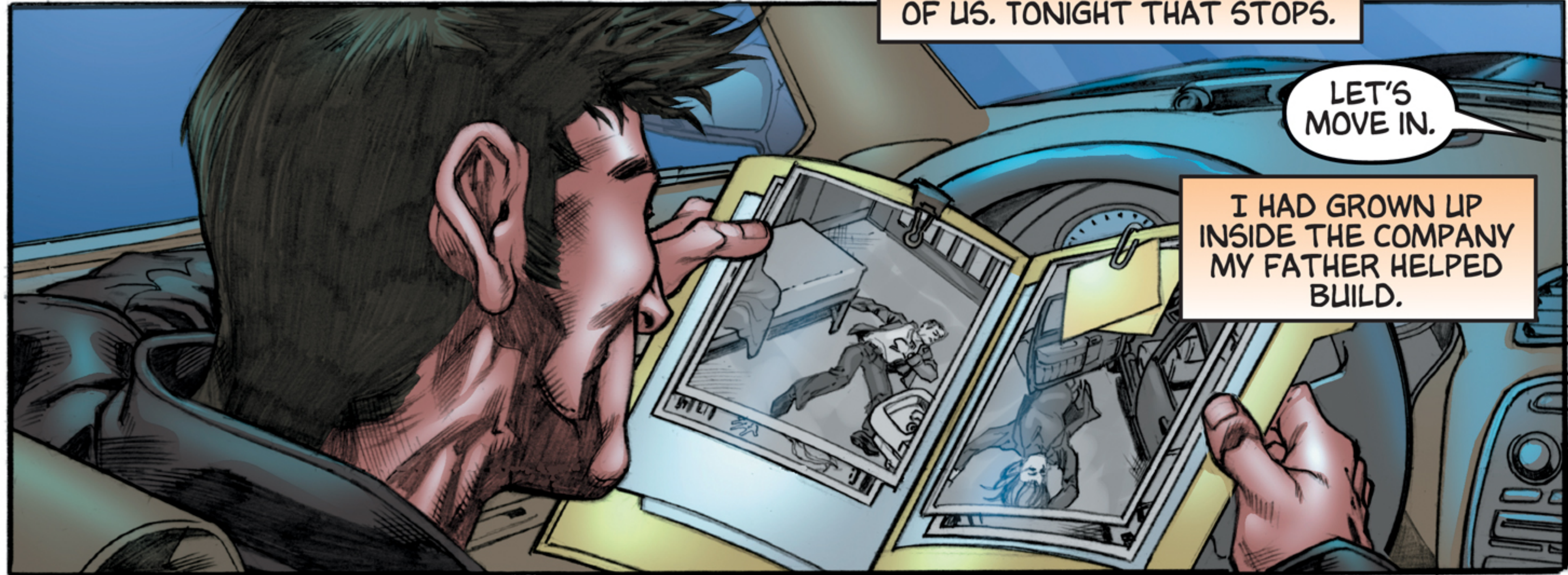
THREE AGENTS WERE KILLED LAST MONTH. ALL HUMANS WITH NO ABILITIES.

DEVIN, SECURE THE REAR.

OF COURSE, EL CAPITAN.

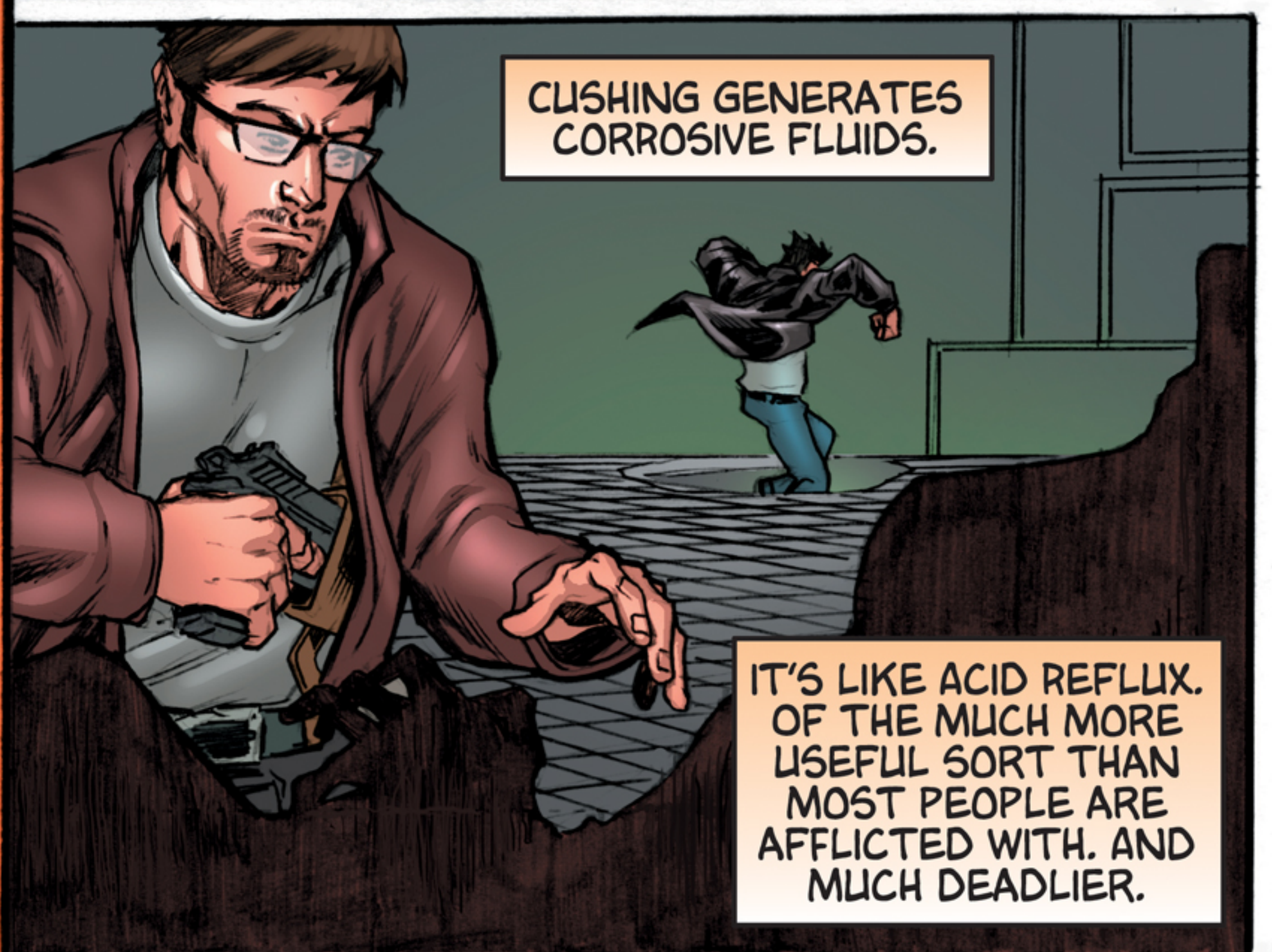
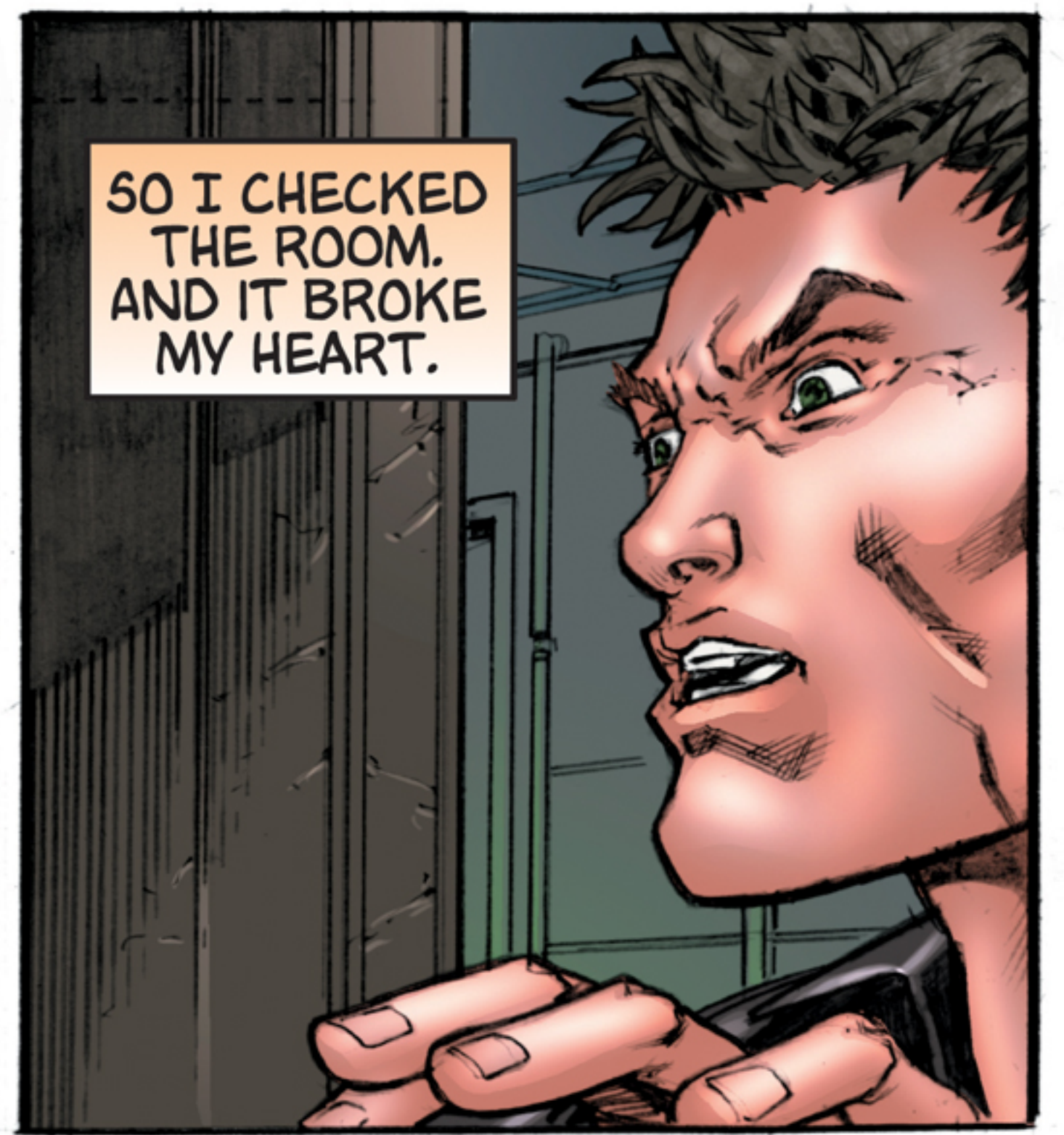
LAST WEEK THERE WAS A FOURTH. KILLED IN OUR OWN FACILITY. CUSHING WAS THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT AN ALIBI.

ONE OF THEM IS KILLING MANY OF US. TONIGHT THAT STOPS.



LET'S MOVE IN.

I HAD GROWN UP INSIDE THE COMPANY MY FATHER HELPED BUILD.





WHY'D YOU DO IT?

I DIDN'T.

YOU'RE OFF THE RESERVATION.

SO ARE YOU.



I GOT A NOTE SAYING TO MEET WL. SHE'D NAME THE MOLE.

OOOOFF.

WHUMP

THEN COME IN WITH US. PROVE IT.



CAN'T. I'D BE RUBY'D IN UNDER AN HOUR.

THAT'S BULL. YOU'RE INVOLVED. TELL ME HOW.





YOU IDIOT!
YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO KILL
HIM!

I DID YOU
A FAVOR. THAT
SPECIAL WAS
GONNA KILL
YOU!

SO WE
KNOW NOTHING.
IT'S OVER. NOW WE
TAKE CARE OF
OURSELVES.

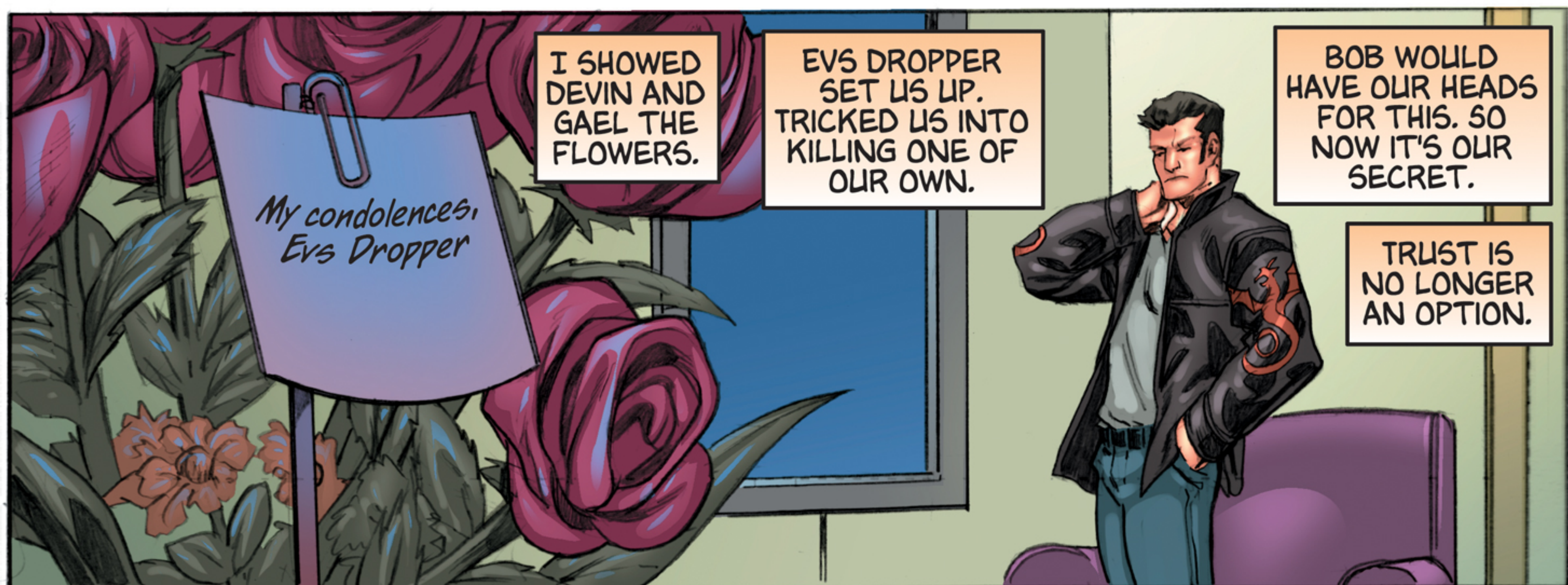


WE LEFT CUSHING AT THE
SCENE WITH AGENT WL.
MAYBE SOMEONE WOULD
LOOK LIKE A HERO IN ALL
OF THIS. BUT NOT US.



WHAT THE HELL ARE
WE DOING ANYMORE?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW.

PARANOIA IS DRAWING LINES
BETWEEN *US* AND *THEM*.
DISTRUST THRIVES. PEOPLE
ARE DYING, AND IT IS ONLY
GOING TO GET WORSE.



I SHOWED
DEVIN AND
GAEL THE
FLOWERS.

EVS DROPPER
SET US UP.
TRICKED US INTO
KILLING ONE OF
OUR OWN.

BOB WOULD
HAVE OUR HEADS
FOR THIS. SO
NOW IT'S OUR
SECRET.

TRUST IS
NO LONGER
AN OPTION.

TWO WEEKS LATER.

I NEEDED A PARTNER I COULD CONTROL. GAEL HAD ASSIGNED ME DONNA. GOOD. SHE WAS GREEN. BUT I HAD TO KNOW EVERY DARK SECRET ABOUT HER. EVERY POSSIBLE SOURCE FOR BETRAYAL.

OH.

#*%!/ STAY COOL. SHE CAN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE, DUNLAP.

YOU PROBABLY AREN'T EITHER.

I GUESS WE CAN THROW "GREEN" OUT THE WINDOW.

THERE IS A TERRIBLE GUILT IN KNOWING SOMEONE IS GOING TO DIE BEFORE THEY DO.

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO YOU SEE?

BUT I ALSO WONDER, DONNA DUNLAP, IF IT IS YOUR FATE TO DIE, WILL IT BE AS A HERO?

TO BE CONTINUED...